



M. Jodi Rell
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

September 14, 2010

The Honorable Raymond E. Mabus Jr.
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Mabus,

Having learned of the Navy's plan to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 with visits to a number of major east coast ports, I want to express Connecticut's enthusiastic support for such an event in New London.

Connecticut is proud of its maritime history and the role it played in the War of 1812. Commodore Isaac Hull, the heroic commander of *USS Constitution* at the onset of the war, was a native son – born in Derby in 1773. And the historic towns of New London, Groton, Essex and Stonington today feature compelling stories from the conflict of British attacks, sieges and blockades. Small towns across the state feature monuments to the many residents of Connecticut who served – both at sea and ashore – during the War of 1812.

A commemorative port visit coinciding with New London's annual Sailfest and OpSail 2012 would be a tremendous opportunity to show case today's United States Navy and Marine Corps and to celebrate the region's and our nation's maritime heritage and traditions.

As you know, the State is already working with the City of New London to help them plan and prepare for OpSail 2012. We would also stand ready to support the Navy in partnering with OpSail and the City of New London for this historic opportunity.

Sincerely,

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

cc: U.S. Senators Chris Dodd and Joe Lieberman
U.S. Representative Joe Courtney
Mayor Robert M. Pero, City of New London
Rear Admiral John Padgett, USN (Ret.), Navy Office of Commemorations
Commissioner Joan McDonald, Dept. of Economic & Community Development
Executive Director Bob Ross, Office of Military Affairs